

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P R 230400Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4784

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 221

WELLINGTON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FJ

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB MEETS WITH FIJI PRIME MINISTER

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC
PHILIP HABIB VISITED FIJI FEB 22-23, 1976. ON FEB 23 HE HAD
CORDIAL 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER RATU SIR KAM-
ISESE MARA, COVERING WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS. TOPICS OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST ARE REPORTED BELOW.

2. SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNWFZ): PRIMIN
NOTED HE WILL BE SEEING NEW PRIME MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND, BOTH OF WHOM HE KNOWS WELL, IN NEW ZEALAND AT
MARCH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING. ONE ISSUE THEY WILL DISCUSS
IS SPNWFZ. HABIB SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FIJI HAS AS ITS PRIN-
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CIPAL INTEREST GETTING NUCLEAR TESTING IN PACIFIC STOPPED,

RATHER THAN OTHER POINTS SUCH AS TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR POWERED VESSELS. PRIMIN SAID THIS HAS BEEN HIS POSITION ALL ALONG. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOF TRIES TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO ITS PEOPLE. ISSUES SUCH AS SPNWFZ AROUSE GREAT DEAL OF PUBLIC INTEREST, PARTICULARLY AMONG ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND MORE LIBERAL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY. GOF HAS TO GO ALONG TO A CERTAIN EXTENT WITH THESE PEOPLE. BUT IN FACT, LAST WEEK IN INTERVIEW WITH NEW ZEALAND TELEVISION REPORTER, HE HAD STATED THAT IF A REQUEST WERE MADE FOR NPW VISIT TO FIJI, HE WOULD AGREE. RESOLUTION FIJI COSPONSORED WITH NEW ZEALAND AND OTHERS HAS PASSED IN UN. IT CANNOT BE WITHDRAWN. FIJI MUST NOW WORK OUT WITH NEW ZEALAND HOW RESOLUTION IS TO BE TREATED. HABIB NOTED THAT US HAD ABSTAINED ON RESOLUTION BECAUSE WE FELT PROPOSALS NEW ZEALAND HAD PUSHED WERE TOO BROAD. HE HOPED PRIMIN UNDERSTOOD THAT US HAS CERTAIN STRATEGIC RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD PACIFIC AREA THAT WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY SWEEPING NUCLEAR FREE PROPOSAL. HE SUGGESTED THAT FIJI AND NEW ZEALAND CONCENTRATE ON TEST BAN ASPECTS OF RESOLUTION, WHICH US SUPPORTS, AND HOPED THAT PORTIONS OF RESOLUTION THAT MIGHT AFFECT US STRATEGIC INTERESTS COULD BE LEFT TO LIE FALLOW.

3. ASEAN SUMMIT: PRIMIN SAID HE IS FOLLOWING WITH INTEREST ASEAN SUMMIT, WHICH YEAR AGO HE HAD NOT THOUGHT COULD BE HELD. HABIB EXPRESSED OPINION THAT EVENTS IN VIETNAM HAD MADE ASEAN LEADERS REALIZE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION DESIRABLE. HE ASKED IF ASEAN WAS OF ANY INTEREST TO FIJI. PRIMIN REPLIED THAT FIJI HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA IN LOS. AS FOR RELATIONS, AT PRESENT TIME BORDER BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND WEST IRIAN SEEMED TO BE LIMIT OF ASEAN INTEREST. HE HAD EXPECTED BY NOW AN OVERTURE BY ASEAN TO PNG PRIMIN SOMARE. HABIB THOUGHT THAT OVER PERIOD OF TIME, ASEAN MIGHT LOOK TOWARD PNG AND ON TO PACIFIC ISLANDS.

4. UN VOTING: HABIB EXPRESSED US APPRECIATION FOR FIJI VOTE ON ZIONISM AND FOR SUPPORT ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24. ON KOREA, HE NOTED THAT IN MARCH GROUPS SUPPORTING ROK (US, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, ETC) WOULD TRY TO DEVELOP MOST FORTHCOMING POSITION POSSIBLE ON ROK. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PRIMIN, AFTER CONSIDERING THIS NEW POSITION, COULD SUPPORT IT. PRIMIN SAID THAT FIJI IN ITS UN POSITIONS DOES NOT "FOLLOW MOB" HABIB
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SAID WE WERE AWARE OF THAT AND APPRECIATED IT.
HALL

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